

REMARKS

Thirty-two claims, claims 1-32, were pending after the last amendment. Claims 1-10, 12-20, 21-30, and 32 were rejected, and claims 11, 21, and 31 were objected to. Please cancel claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21, 23-28, and 30-31 with this Amendment. Claims 9, 12, 19, and 29 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above changes and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

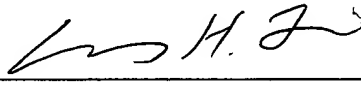
In paragraph 19 of the final office action, claims 11, 21, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 9, the base claim, to include the limitations of claims 10-11, and claims 10-11 have been canceled. Claim 19, the base claim, has been amended to include the limitations of claims 20-21, and claims 20-21 have been canceled. In addition, claim 29, the base claim, has been amended to include the limitations of claims 30-31, and claims 30-31 have been canceled. Claims 12, 22, and 32 continue to depend from claims 9, 19, and 29, respectively. Based on the amendments to claims 9, 19, and 29, claims 12, 22, and 32 are likewise believed to be patentable as incorporating all the limitations of claims 9, 19, and 29, respectively, but also as further defining the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 9, 12, 19, 22, 29, and 32 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-18, 20-21, 23-28, and 30-31 have been canceled with this Amendment. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter of these canceled claims.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance of all claims remaining herein, claims 9, 12, 19, 22, 29, and 32 as amended, and therefore an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner continues one or more of his rejections, however, he is respectfully requested to enter the amendments into the case at this time in order to clarify the issues for appeal. If the Examiner believes that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would help advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
SAUL KATO

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By: 
Hsiang H. Lin
Registration No. 56,403
Fenwick & West LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Tel.: (650) 335-7203
Fax.: (650) 938-5200